days during which there has been no borrowings under the discretionary refinance facility.

***Removal of regional disparity in minimum wages***

1404. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently drawn up guidelines to remove regional disparity relating to minimum wages;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take for the effective implementation of the guidelines in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Central Government has circulated draft guidelines on regional minimum wages to all the State Governments/Union Territories on 6th May, 1986. As per these guidelines the entire country is proposed to be sub-divided into six regions. It is proposed that the regional minimum wages should be fixed employment-wise for selected employments within the region. The draft guidelines are expected to be finalised soon based on the comments of the State Governments. These guidelines are of an advisory nature and have to be implemented by the States. The matter is being persued with the States.

**Agreement between export import Bank of India and IFC**

1405. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Export-Import Bank of India has signed or propose to sign an agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) an affiliate of World Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agreement would be for $ 15 m. and would benefit small and medium enterprises in India; and

(d) if so, what are the salient features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) International Finance Corporation, Washington IFC(W) has approved an investment in the form of an Agency Credit Line (ACL) of US$ 15 million to be managed by the Export-Import (Exim) Bank of India for financing of small and medium-size export-oriented private enterprises in India. An agreement in this regard has been signed between Exim Bank and IFC (W).

The IFC(W) funds would be used to finance mainly import costs of the project and Exim Bank would make available matching funds to meet local costs. In this way Exim Bank will be able to offer total financial package to Export-Oriented Units.

The IFC(W) loans to the borrowers will carry an interest rate of 2 per cent over 6 months LIBOUR, a commitment fee of 0.5 per cent on undisbursed balances and one time front-end-fee at the rate of 1 per cent of loan amount. The IFC will pay Exim Bank, in return for its services, an agency fee on sliding scale ranging from 0.25 per cent to 0.85 per cent on average outstanding loan balances payable on a semi-annual basis in arrears.

**Permission to float bonds by Andhra Pradesh**

1406. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Government of India to permit the State